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Volunteer Achievement

Two Lions Club members recognized for community service. See page 2.

Doing Things Right

Roofing company donates to three local charities. See page 9.

Shindig Returns

Annual fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth to be delivered online this month. See page 10.



Photo by Tammy Nash

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Two Lions recognized for service achievement

JENN WATT

County Life Editor

Two members of the Haliburton and District Lions Club were bestowed prestigious awards for their contributions to the club, the district and the wider community.

Mary Lawr and Betty Mills received the International Leadership Medal and International President's Medal, respectively via courier – an untraditional method of delivery, but appropriate during the pandemic.

"I got a message in my email that said this is a tracking number for my order and I thought, 'I didn't order anything,'" Lawr said. "... And then UPS showed up in my driveway and there was this letter and a medal saying I had won this service [award]."

Mills had the same experience, with a box arriving containing an unexpected honour.

"It's not something that you expect or work to get. It was a total surprise," she said.

The awards recognize the hours these members spent working on projects on behalf of the service club. Lawr, who was service chairperson during the 2019 year (which for the Lions goes from July 2019 to June 2020), was involved with many of the local club's projects.

Some of those include a bottle and can collection with refunds going to the Walk for Service Dogs, Reverse Advent Calendar for the food bank, eyeglasses collection for those in need, and the



Mary Lawr received the International Leadership Medal for her efforts as the club service chair in 2019 for the Haliburton and District Lions Club. She said the award was a surprise, delivered to her home by a UPS truck, since public ceremonies aren't possible during the pandemic. /Photo submitted

Cash Calendars fundraiser. In addition, the annual polar dip coordinated by the Lions raises funds for the Hospital for Sick Kids.

Mills, who was service chairperson for the District A16, said many of her hours were collected as she worked with the 52 clubs included in the region, assisting them in reporting their service activities.

"Every club has different service activities, but they're not reporting them to anybody and nobody knew about them at the upper level of international Lions. ... Lions Club International is a very big organization and they get a lot of support for funding [from] corporate sponsorships and trust funds [etc.] that can help to alleviate some of the situations in the world ... In order to get funding from



Haliburton Lion Betty Mills received the International President's Medal for her efforts as the global service chair for District A16. /Photo submitted

these other organizations, it's important to have data and they found there was more service going on than was being reported and told to these big companies," she said. She also helped to coordinate information sharing between clubs, with a list of successful service activities to inspire members.

Funding was also obtained to benefit frontline workers in Bobcaygeon, where a COVID-19 outbreak killed several residents at a nursing home. The grant was about \$14,000, which was spent primarily on food for the workers, through gift cards to restaurants.

"By asking the frontline workers, they said they would love to be able to pick up a meal after a shift and go home and

eat –or go wherever they were going, a lot of them were in isolation," Mills said.

Mills was first a "partner in service" with the Lions, since her husband David has been a Lion since 1972. She joined the organization in 2006. She said the experience has been a meaningful one.

"I've met some of the nicest people that I've ever met in my life, because we're all kind of like-minded, wanting to help other people," she said. Her time with the organization has enhanced her leadership and public speaking skills and she has met people from all walks of life. It's also something she can share with her husband.

Lawr has been a Lion for about the same amount of time, and said she was convinced to join by a friend and enjoyed it. She said even when times get stressful, she knows she can chat with her fellow Lions and they get through it together.

Receiving an award for her work was a pleasant surprise, she said.

"I still can't believe it. I had to put it online so my kids could see it," she said. "... I was very, very surprised and very honoured that they did this because I had never heard of the service award before. I just did it because that's what I like to do."

Linda Heeps, club secretary, keeps track of the metrics for the Haliburton and District Lions Club. She said for the 2019 year (July to June), 3,799 people were served, 172 activities completed, 3,990 volunteer hours completed, \$27,551 dollars donated (U.S.), and \$32,218 funds raised (U.S.).



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The Writers' Circle

A monthly feature of local creative writers' work

For you, Terry

Shortly after my 73rd birthday, Aug. 19, 2020, I received an email once again from the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope: "Can we count on your support, Barb?" "Hmmm ... maybe" I thought and opened myself to my relationship over the years to Terry and his Marathon of Hope. I remembered Terry's words just before he died of cancer, just before he could complete his run across Canada to raise funds and awareness of cancer and cancer research, "If I don't make it, the Marathon of Hope must continue." What a wise young man who understood the big teaching: that life is not about getting to the finish line but about being present on its journey!

I saw *him*! I saw this gentle young man 40 years ago in 1980 jogging behind his campaign van as I was walking south on Yonge Street in Thornhill. He had a prosthesis on his right leg. I saw Terry along with over 100 young children with their counsellors. We were all participants at my camp, Thornhill Day Camp, based in Thornhill Park at Yonge and Centre Streets. That afternoon when we saw him, we were returning from presenting a music concert at a long-term care home. Each camp group ranging in ages from three to 12 years sang camp songs to the audience strewn across the lawn some lying down on blankets, some in wheelchairs, some in chairs with their caregivers. Some songs included: "Down by the Bay," "The Ship Titanic," "Rise and

Shine," that invited audience participation. One counsellor, Richard, played his guitar. At camp he was considered mostly off-key but here with his leather cap, his boots, his curly long hair and sweet smile, he was a star. Back in the camp circles in Thornhill Park under the big old shady trees, the children were free to ask questions about Terry Fox. I remember one little boy about six years was crying as he asked his counsellor, "Will I lose my leg like Terry Fox?" A compassionate counsellor answered, "No worries. You'll grow up strong and healthy."

Every year since 1980 I participated in the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. I jogged 10 kilometres most years with participants sometimes in Toronto, sometimes near my cottage in Haliburton and sometimes in Minden. Every year I raised funds for cancer research and, for 20 years, registered as a team with my English as a Second Language adult students. The students were anxious to share their personal stories with each other about cancer in broken English and to walk around Mel Lastman Square in North York close to the Sept. 20 anniversary day.

On my 72nd birthday, when I received the email from the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope "Can we count on your support again, Barb?" I replied, "I'm sorry. I'm in bad shape this year. I can't jog and I can hardly walk. I'm suffering from arthritis in my left hip." I was quite depressed and

see GRATITUDE page 5

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Haliburton Rotary   

The Writers' Circle

A monthly feature of local creative writers' work

Gratitude for time at the cottage in Haliburton

FROM page 4

felt myself quickly slipping into old age as a bent over senior with chronic pain. I even put my cottage on Eagle Lake for sale. In September, I met Dr. Kaminker, an orthopedic surgeon.

"I'm pretty sure with hip replacement surgery, I can get you to walk pain free." "Let's do it! I'm really feeling lousy."

The surgery took place on Dec. 17, 2019.

Waking up in recovery, I discovered first I was alive as I took my first deep breaths. Shortly after, a physiotherapist helped me out of bed and I walked with a walker to the washroom. I placed one foot in front of the other—like Terry. The next morning I was led to a room with exercise equipment and guided through a series of stretches. That afternoon, my daughter picked me up and took me back to my condo in Toronto. She stayed with me overnight and then left. Each morning I practiced the hospital stretches. I put stickers all over the condo walls reminding myself about "no twisting," "no crossing legs"... I had my late dad's Cadillac walker complete with a seat and soon took myself out for a winter walks, sitting down on the seat when I felt tired. As my strength, confidence and flexibility returned I replaced the walker with a cane and poles. I could drive my car with the bonus of an accessible parking

permit for easy access parking. I had two physiotherapy visits at St. John's Rehabilitation Centre near my condo.

"You're doing great, Barb," said the surgeon at my follow-up appointment in late January.

"Can I go to Cuba in February?"

"OK. Just be careful."

"Thanks. I will," I replied, hardly able to contain my excitement.

I went across the road from the hospital after my appointment. I went into the dollar store and found the water noodles already on the shelf. Cuba was very therapeutic with walking on the beach, dipping into the ocean with my noodle and exercising and swimming in the pool. I believe I had the only noodle at the resort, maybe the only one in all of Cuba! At the end of my two week stay, I gave my noodle to a small child.

When I returned from Cuba in the middle of February, my condo pool was opened and I continued swimming until the COVID-19 lockdown came. In March, I stayed with my daughter at her guesthouse in Kimberley. I practiced my morning stretches, and walked a lot. My daughter and I enjoyed talks on her front porch and worked through some challenging moments in our relationship. I saw she was worried about me as I was a senior and targeted as a more at-risk person for COVID-19. In April I returned back to my condo, carried on with my

stretches and lots of walking. Finally, in June I came to my cottage in Haliburton. It didn't sell. I was truly grateful. I was nervous about whether my body could manage the cottage environment.

"I want to come to the cottage this weekend. Can you turn the water on and put in the dock?" I asked handyman Bill.

"Do an Irish jig, Barb," he called back with the good news.

"I'm Jewish. I'll do a 'horah' dance,

Bill."

"K", he replied.

We both chuckled.

My arrival at the cottage was spectacular. I hadn't been back since I left in October. I breathed in the air. I looked out onto the lake at sunrise. I put my feet one in front of the other on its sacred earth. I continued with my daily morning stretches, at the cottage followed by

see FUNDRAISER page 7

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Send your letters to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Editorial

Where the magic happens

I FIND THAT TO live in the moment, and without expectations, is to live where the magic happens.

This morning, with the sun shining warmly, I went out with a beaver stick and began streaming the flooded area below the dam.

I've heard a number of writers and philosophers enjoy doing this: giving standing water a way to join up and flow. Perhaps it's a metaphor for something important.

While I was poking and slinging the muck and natural debris – twigs, grasses, stones – my mind entertained itself with thoughts of creativity, like: "What am I creating with my life?" I didn't have an answer and instead of fretting about it, trusted I didn't have to know right then and there.

After lunch and an adventurous hike, my husband called me over to see some-



thing right where I had been streaming. It was an ancient looking snapping turtle with a pile of muck on its back. I went close and took a few pictures then carried on with my streaming four metres away.

After ignoring it, the turtle came up the stream I'd created, and I wondered if my digging had shifted things to disturb its hibernating spot. I turned

around to watch it but it stopped. Again, I returned to work and it crept a little closer then again, stopped when I gazed its way.

Wanting to create a safe place, I began singing a song I'd learned from an Indigenous woman. In some tribes, turtles are respected as Mother Earth, so I sang: Mother I feel you under my feet. Mother I hear your heartbeat. Heya heya heya heya heya hey ya...

With its snout up, the turtle made a puffing movement in its uplifted throat that looked like it was in sync with my song. I kept singing, slowly and softly, and the turtle came right towards me, stopped at my feet, and took time to look right at me and connect with me.

It was a profound moment.

Right then I knew, this is what life is about – creating connections.

Sometimes it feels like we're alone in the universe, isolated from true love and kinship, but our voice, our song connects us to the living, breathing pulse that is always there inviting us to join in, harmonize, improvise and create connections.

Wow, oh wow.

What magic!

Top 10 reasons lions never caught on as pet

- W** E HUMANS HAVE made a lot of animals into pets over the year, but the lion is not one of them. Here are the top 10 reasons why.
1. Not exactly curtain-friendly.
 2. Litter box cleaning unpleasant.
 3. You try to kick one off the couch.
 4. Feeding time requires a top hat, stool and a whip.
 5. Makes the dog extremely nervous.
 6. The kids are too rough on pets.
 7. Chases laser spots right through the wall.
 8. Hard on a ball of wool.
 9. Furballs the size of rabbits.
 10. Drags every deer kill in the house.



Tribe

Frost feathering the forest floor, shrouding layers of leaves,
that crackle beneath my feet, as I clomp along the trail,
surrounded by trees that reach towards a waking Sky,
flushed with the light of morning.

The cackle of crows muffles my steps, as my eyes skim the bald tops of trees,
searching for black wings,
but all I see is scratches of nests etched onto branches of trees,
wondering whether they belong to squirrels or birds, my fingers brushing the trunks of trees, for quiet, familiar company as I climb,
towards a spot where I can see a Lake sprawling small as a puddle,
the pines fringing its shore, tiny as eyelashes blinking in the Wind.

I pass trees whose girth has withered, poking from the earth like bones,
trees that are barely there, but still they share Air with the others,
that maybe protect them when storms tear through the forest,
making them shiver down to their roots, the tribe of trees connected,
deeper than I can see, as I pause to feel the grey trunk of a limbless, branchless, tree,
not much taller than me, its top severed and splintered by Wind,
its bark skinned, smooth as stone, and I wonder whether this tree is still a tree,
so long as its roots tether it to the earth,

as my palm presses into its trunk and it begins to wobble.

I release my hand so it doesn't topple over, the bone of its trunk, smooth as a sculpture, its beauty as striking as when it was alive, thriving amongst its tribe in this forest of bare trees, cushioned by their leaves curled on the forest floor, that crunches as I walk, towards my favourite spot, pausing to admire the barkless trunks of other limbless trees,
that once housed nests in their branches, their leaves rustling in Wind,
glinting in the Sun, sharing Air with the others, that I inhale now, picking sticks up that poke through piles of leaves,
thinking about my own tiny tribe, that grounds and lifts and carries me, and how lucky I am to have them.

Sylvie Kalenda





Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com



By Georgia Peschel

Minden Rotary to launch online auction

Following the cancellation of their annual gala dinner and auction in June due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Minden Rotary Club decided to raise money in another way.

Volunteers asked the community to donate items for an online auction and have received more than 70, which have been posted to Facebook for bidding.

Items began appearing at www.facebook.com/mindenrotaryonline-auction starting on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 4 p.m. and the auction closes

Nov. 28 at 4 p.m. All donations will go to local initiatives.

"Bidders will be asked to place their bids in the comment section under each item and the winning bidder will be notified by [direct message]," said fundraising chair Sharon Foster by email. "The rules for the auction are pinned as a post to the top of the page."

Those who wish to make financial donations to Rotary can do so at www.mindenrotary.ca.

Staff

Drive-thru format for Christmas hamper program

Families who think they'll need some help with food and toys this Christmas season are asked to register with the Minden Community Food Centre for its Christmas hamper program, which will take a drive-thru format this year amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Those wishing to register are asked to call 705-286-6400 from Monday, Nov. 30 to Friday, Dec. 4, or from Monday, Dec. 7 to Friday, Dec. 11 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pick up of the hampers will take place at the

Minden Hills Community Centre on Monday, Dec. 21 between 1 and 3 p.m. Recipients must bring photo identification for themselves and all members of their family.

Face masks will be required, and recipients will be expected to load their hampers into their own vehicles. If recipients do not feel they will be able to lift the boxes, they should bring someone along who is able to do so.

Staff

Fundraiser inspires action

FROM page 5

meditation. I canoed. I swam in the lake. I enjoyed the hot tub.

"Hmm ... maybe this is exactly what I need right now with COVID and with my continuing rehabilitation of my left hip? OK, Terry, I'll do it. This one's just for you, Terry." I emailed back the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope with the following response, "I won't be doing a virtual walk but I'm happy to say I'll be doing my own 10 km walk for Terry and I'll get sponsorship." On

Sept. 20, 2020 I donned my Terry Fox T-shirt. I walked alone setting out my own 10 km route in Toronto, pain free and strong and positive in mind, body and spirit. I raised just over \$400 for cancer research and among its recipients was Brenda Peddigrew, the facilitator of the Algonquin Highlands Resonant Writers' Circle that I have been a member of since 2004. She encouraged me to write about Terry Fox.

By Barbara Rosen

The solution to COVID-19 is in your hands.

- Wear a face covering.
- Keep 2m apart from anyone outside of your household.
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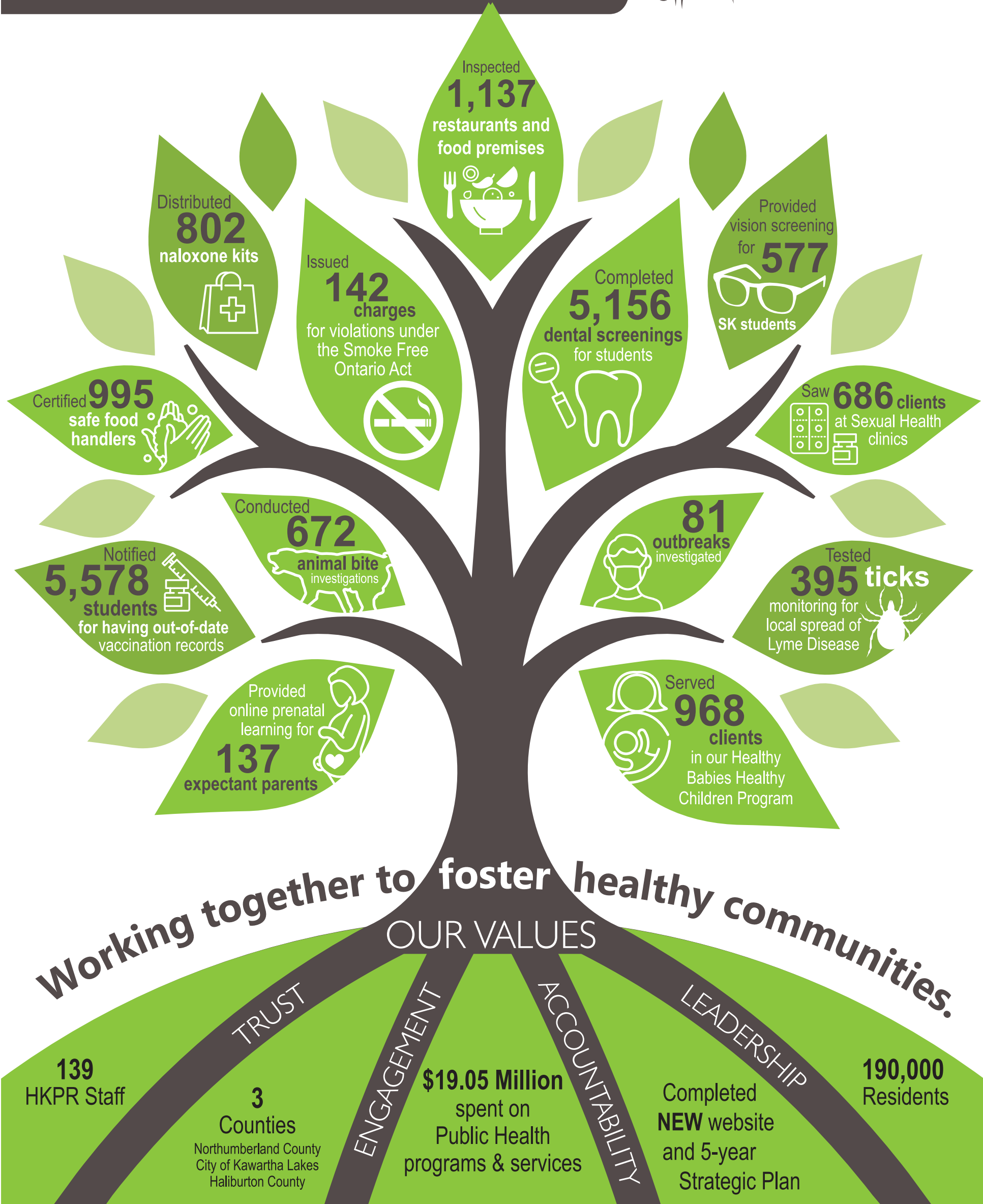
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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

STRONG ROOTS in our Communities



Local company raises the roof in support of community

When Cory and Melissa Valentini got their roofing business ramped up for the summer season, they wanted to take their success and turn it into success for the whole community.

The owner/operators of Up Right Roofing, the Valentinis knew it had been a tough year for so many, including local organizations who rely on donations.

"We wanted to do something, in an ongoing fashion, to help the many people that were still struggling in our community," they said. "We committed to donate \$300 from every job we completed in the 2020 roofing season. We expected to complete 30 roofing projects and we are very happy to have completed 34 roofing projects allowing us to donate a total of \$10,200."

The donation of \$10,200 was split between SIRCH Community Services, YWCA Peterborough Haliburton and Point in Time Centre for Children and Youth, each receiving \$3,400.

The organizations were delighted upon hearing they would be the recipients of such a generous local initiative.

"Point in Time was *thrilled* to learn of the generous proposal of making significant donations to SIRCH, YWCA and Point in Time," said Point in Time executive director Marg Cox. "During the pandemic we are seeing increased needs – economic hardship, increased stress on families, and worry. All have resulted in a myriad of timely and responsive supports from food security, clothing, transportation, and a broad range of supports to support mental health and wellness. This has allowed

us to augment our government funding with more flexible funding to fund some of these activities, which are not fully funded or considered government allowable expenses."

SIRCH executive director Gena Robertson shared similar sentiments about receiving such a generous donation.

"We were honoured to be chosen as one of the donees by Up Right Roofing, and extend that gratitude to everyone who chose them to do their roof. It's such a great idea to build a donation into your revenue model," said Robertson.

SIRCH plans to use the donation towards the healthy free meals that are distributed throughout the community. The meals, said Robertson, help with food security and reducing social isolation.

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton was also ecstatic, saying the corporate donation could not have come at a better time for the organization. Women's organizations around the world have reported that they have seen their needs as much as triple during the pandemic, according to the YWCA.

"For women trapped in abusive situations, the COVID-19 crisis has dramatically increased their risk of harm, and even death," wrote Ria Nicholson, YWCA's major gift officer. "Recent trends in the county, with more cottagers opting to stay in the area, have resulted in an increase in calls to our Haliburton County services for information, support, and safety planning. We expect this to continue as the reports of abuse are more serious and complex

given the heightened stressors brought on by the pandemic."

The YWCA plans to use the funds to "meet the growing need for safety, resources and support for women and their children escaping violence, specifically in Haliburton County."

The Valentinis chose organizations that help vulnerable individuals and those at higher risk, knowing that the pandemic has made it more challenging for those already facing difficult situations.

Up Right Roofing started its business in Haliburton in May 2019 and serves the county and surrounding areas with a full-service approach.

"We are happy to be a contributing part of the business community and deepen our roots in this community with our locally owned and operated roofing business," said the Valentinis.

This donation is just another example of the overwhelming generosity and kindness this community has shown, echoed all three organizations.

"Up Right Roofing is a prime example of reaching out to support others," said Marg Cox. "We have had donations of wild meat, offers of people willing to volunteer, organizations working more closely than ever together to help respond to community needs, staff digging deeper than ever to flex their hours around client needs, making sure there is no stone unturned if at all possible in helping people."

Submitted by SIRCH Community Services

Minden Hills Holiday Lights Contest

The Township of Minden Hills and Minden Hills Cultural Centre has organized a holiday lights contest to help spread holiday cheer this season. Decorate your house or apartment and add it to the Holiday Trail Map for a chance to win a \$150 gift certificate to a local business of your choice. The holidays look a little bit different this year as new traditions spring up while others are put on hold.

Register on the map: by Dec. 1, 2020

Vote online: Dec. 5-13, 2020

Winner announced: Dec. 14, 2020

Watch the local papers for the Holiday Trail Map showing where you can see contestants' spectacularly decorated places.

Full details online www.MHCC.blog/lights

The digital Holiday Trail Map will be available to download on the pock-sights app and available to view on the Minden Hills Cultural Centre blog: www.MHCC.blog/lights

The Holiday Trail Map will be published in local papers. Details to come.

The winning submission with the most online votes will be announced on the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Facebook page on Dec. 14, 2020.



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Highlands Christmas Shindig

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Tom Regina/Stam Russell, Chad Ingram/Tim Tofflemire
& of course the fabulous Dame Beatrice,
the handsome Sir Cedric Bridlington
and sweet Penelope

**Coming Saturday November 28th
at 7.00 pm**

Watch it on your computer, phone, tablet or smart tv at:

shindigtv.ca

Highlands Christmas Shindig set to warm homes

SUE TIFFIN

County Life Staff

The seventh annual Highlands Christmas Shindig is gearing up to warm the homes of residents throughout the county, both in supporting Fuel for Warmth's efforts to alleviate heating challenges during the winter season, and in connecting community both near and far with an entertaining show that promises to kickstart the season of spirited giving.

"At the end of November, we're into the shorter days, the weather starts to turn cold, Christmas is still a fair distance away, and I think for people it's that bright evening where they get to see some great local talent, they get to have a little fun along the way, they walk out feeling it was time well-spent, and they get to support a really important cause," said Mike Jaycock, who founded the annual Christmas pantomime alongside his dear friend Lorraine McNeil, leads a committee that organizes the show, writes the script and MCs the evening. "I think the Shindig has really developed into something that on the calendar makes a lot of sense and as an entity, provides people with exactly what they're looking for at that time of year. I think that's just marvellous."

The annual variety show will go on this year despite the pandemic, though instead of bringing the community together at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion for an event that has historically been sold-out, viewers will be able to tune in to what promises to be a delightful show from the comfort of their own homes.

Jaycock said planning a digital show broadcasting live from three locations triples the level of attention for the planning and production team, but that he is grateful for the committee helping to pull it all together to continue the event's legacy of success and is excited to see what the night will bring.

"When we were meeting early in the season, at our first meeting, everybody said, we have to do this because we know the need is going to be greater this year, because of COVID and the employment situation resulting from that, has put many more people under pressure, and we're positive... that there's going to be a much greater need this year," said Jaycock. "To a person, they all said, let's go for it, let's do it."

The Highlands Christmas Shindig will be broadcast live from www.shindigtv.ca, with the website being made available in advance so those planning on watching can test their home set-up and ensure everything is in working order ahead of the show. The Shindig will be available to viewers from any location, via internet.

"We can accommodate about 230 people in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, and as someone on the committee said, you know, [online] we could end up having a few thousand people watching this," said Jaycock.

Year after year, Jaycock has famously brought to life Dame Beatrice on stage as host. "I'm quite excited to see what she'll be wearing as well," he said, in response to what bedazzling look he might adorn his beloved alter ego with this year. "Melissa Stephens approached me and said she would be delighted to come up with an ensemble for Dame Beatrice and I thought, oh, well, the costume maker supreme. So I said to Melissa, just a week ago, Dame Beatrice has to think about her accoutrements, her necklace, her bracelet, her fancy glasses – what colour is she going to be wearing? And Melissa said, 'there'll be a lot of gold!' That was it. So I think it will be a bit of a mystery up to the week before but I have no doubt that it will be appropriate."

The first few shows, Jaycock co-hosted alongside Elf, played by McNeil, who passed in 2018, and later alongside his brother Peter's Sir Cedric Bridlington and Penelope, portrayed by Victoria Bingham. The Jaycocks and Bingham are set to return for the show, with the trio broadcasting from Littlesex, England through the magic of a green screen at Canoe FM Radio Hall – surely getting up to their usual enjoyable shenanigans of roasting local politicians and well-known community members, commenting on current events and announcing a stellar set of local talent.

"There will be more pressure because we won't have the audience reaction, but at the same time we have the opportunity to create a little team spirit and hopefully generate fun amongst ourselves and that will translate into good television," said Jaycock.

He is proud of the talented acts that the 2020 show boasts, most who he said responded very quickly with an interest in being part of the Shindig. This year, Kate Campbell and Nick Russell, Bill Candy, and Chad Ingram and Tim Tofflemire will perform from a new venue within the Dominion Hotel, while Stan Russell and Tom Regina, Carl Dixon and Richard Margison take to the stage at Haliburton Highlands Museum for the 90-minute show. Appearances will also be made by Canadian celebrities including Rick Mercer, Kurt Browning, Ron James and Steve Smith, with messages in support of the Shindig's efforts. Broadcasting online from three different locations requires three separate production teams of community volunteers, including Jack Brezina, Betty and David Mills, Sean Pennylegion, Heather Smith, Barb Murphy and Mike Jaycock, and a tech team of Tammy Rea, Jim Love, Nick Russell and Mark Tomlinson – each location will be overseen by a small crew of a camera person, an audio controller and a producer.

"It's a very cool group of people that are really coming together to make this happen," said Rea, who said she has seen the song list and teased the choices are perfect.

The fundraiser has, in the previous six years, brought in more than \$110,000 for Fuel for Warmth, a volunteer charitable agency which provides temporary emergency heat assistance to those around Haliburton County in need of help with their heating bills or obtaining fuel. This year, rather than purchasing tickets for the show at a set price, viewers will be able to donate what they can online, and the show is also sponsored by local businesses and individuals.

"I think we're all aware that warmth and food have been a challenge for many people for many years, but this year it is pandemic-level," said Rea. "It's going to be a hard time, it really is. That's why I'm so proud of the Shindig, because I really feel like, everyone's putting so much effort into trying to make it so the community can hold hands, and kind of be together before we get into this, and to just share what we have for the winter."

"If we achieve our objective – we give good entertainment and do well for Fuel for Warmth – then that's a great pre-Christmas gift for all of us," said Jaycock.

The Highlands Christmas Shindig takes place Saturday evening, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. For more information visit www.shindigtv.ca and www.fuelforwarmth.com/.



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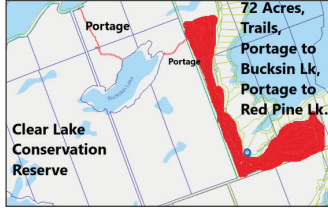
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Brandon Nimigon*
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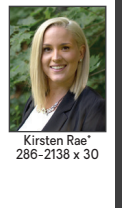
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Kirsten Rae*
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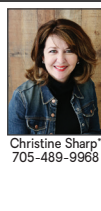
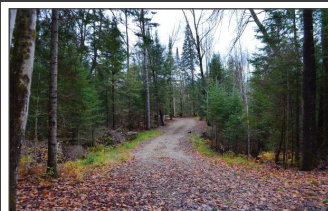
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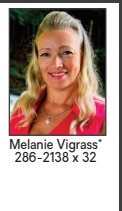
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Greg Stamp*
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County Road 21 \$179,000

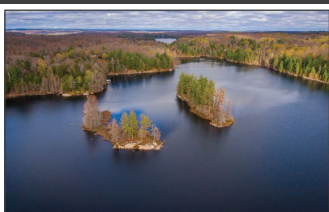
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Real estate fraud at heart of novelist's newest mystery

JENN WATT

County Life Editor

As a journalist writing about financial issues, Rosemary McCracken reported on fraud and saw the impact a successful scam could have on ordinary people and their livelihoods.

In her 40-year career in which she reported for the *Financial Post* and *Calgary Herald*, McCracken paid close attention to the Bernie Madoffs of the world, imagining what it must feel like for the victims of financial crimes.

"It really boiled my blood," McCracken said in an interview last week.

When she decided to branch out into fiction writing, it followed that her protagonist, Pat Tierney, would be a financial planner with a Jessica Fletcher-like propensity for finding herself in situations involving financial crimes and murder.

"Pat, my character, she's very concerned about this too, especially [for] the ordinary people who get ripped off. If you've got millions, maybe you can lose a few, but you know, if you've spent years paying off your mortgage, putting your kids through school, saving for your retirement, and then someone comes along [and steals your money], you've got nothing."

McCracken's first book, *Safe Harbor*, was published in 2012 and involved money laundering. The second, *Black Water*, involved a spyware scam; the third, *Raven Lake*, a cottage rental scam;

and her most recent book, *Uncharted Waters*, involves real estate fraud.

Her second and third books were



If you've got millions, maybe you can lose a few, but you know, if you've spent years paying off your mortgage, putting your kids through school, saving for your retirement, and then someone comes along [and steals your money], you've got nothing.

— Rosemary McCracken



based in a location very similar to the Haliburton Highlands, and at the time she owned a cottage in Algonquin Highlands. Although she has since sold the cottage, the Toronto-based author still travels annually to the Haliburton Highlands. Most recently, she stayed at

a cottage on Boshkung Lake for a month.

She's a member of the Haliburton Highlands Writers' and Editors' Network, which she first connected with during the literary festival in Minden in 2012.

"[The area] is just so beautiful. It's a place you want to be if you're writing something or making something. Look at all the wonderful artists that there are [in the Highlands]," she said.

Navigating the complicated nature of financial crimes, preserving the drama while skirting the cumbersome details, is something McCracken said she's become adept at through her writing.

Her books have been called "financial thrillers," she said, "but they're very on the low-key side. There are some financial thriller writers who have been stock-brokers on Wall Street, bond traders, ... and they really get into it and I am bored stiff myself."

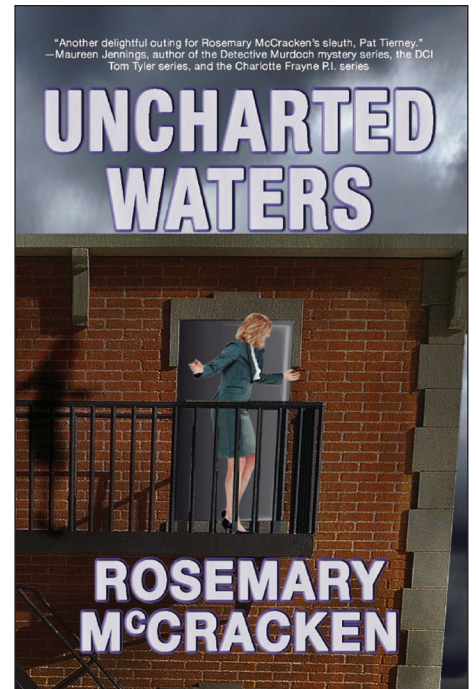
To ensure she keeps her readers engaged, she focuses on the important details.

"I want the books to appeal to everybody. So we know money is missing, or we know there's a scam to take money out of your home, but we don't have to know all the nitty gritty about how it's done," she said.

And of course, greed can lead to murder, McCracken points out.

"It can lead to lying, all sorts of corruption, but it also ... if someone's greedy enough they'll murder you. So there's always a murder in the books."

In *Uncharted Waters*, Pat Tierney has left cottage country and is in Toronto,



Uncharted Waters, the latest in the Pat Tierney series by Rosemary McCracken, involves real estate fraud and murder in this Toronto-based novel.

where she buys a small financial planning practice. Unfortunately, the business's vendor is found murdered and Tierney searches for his killer to clear her name.

The book is available for purchase at Amazon.ca. Read more on Rosemary McCracken at rosemarymccracken.com.

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High voter turnout leads to upsets

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page 2

With one of the largest voter turnouts ever, cottagers let their voice be heard in many of the larger municipalities in the county.

While Chris Hodgson won the reeve's position by a landslide in Dysart et al., Anson, Hindon and Minden's race for reeve was too close to call until the final results

came in at 1 a.m. this morning.

By a margin of 148 votes, incumbent Bern Berry was elected AHM reeve, edging out councillor Verne Graham. Graham garnered 645 votes compared to Berry's 793. The two other candidates, former reeve Ray Moore and former Lutterworth reeve Ron

Gambell, came in at 492 and 396. AHM's new deputy is Lewis Stevens, who had 1,377 voting for him, compared to 886 for Bob Sisson.

On council, first-time candidate Jean Anthon came out on top with 1,761 votes. Another lakeshore resident, Grant Ploard, was next

with 1,288, while former bank manager Gerald Rome garnered 1,107. Losing their bids were Jim Garbutt (1,083) and Francine Neston (433).

In Dysart, it was a close vote for the deputy-reeve's chair. Newcomer Curry Bishop topped the polls with 1,057, with councillor Bob Nichol at 804 and newcomer Jack Cox at 552.

In Dysart's Ward 3, incumbent Lloyd Leadbeater, who served as deputy-reeve since a shake-up two years ago, inched out former Martin's Lumber employee Tom Coghlan. The vote was 126 to 122. In Ward 5, Robert Heinze defeated Larry Tupling 216 to 127.

The four incumbent trustees, Len Salvatori (1,678), Nancy Stinson (1,378), Tim Casey (1,356) and Wayne Wood (1,230) were re-elected.

Cottagers came out in full force in AHM. In the 1988 election, about 350 people voted in the advanced polls; this year, with two advanced polls on Saturdays, the number reached over 1,200. Cottagers are usually the heaviest users of advanced polls.

"The cottagers have come out like they've never come out before," says Glamorgan's clerk, Elva Bates, in announcing the municipality's results.

In an upset vote, newcomer Beverly MacDuff beat out long-serving reeve Bob McCausland by a close vote of 366 to 327.

MacDuff was against the way

council, of which she became a councillor in a 1990 by-election, handled the way it introduced market value assessment. Many voters seemed to agree with her, as incumbent councillors lost their seats.

New faces on Glamorgan council are lakeshore residents Bill Challis, leading with 408 votes, Lorrie Saville with 369 and local resident Earl MacDuff with 350. No longer on council are Alfred Trotter, who garnered 272 votes and Clive Taylor, who came in at 259. Roger Billings rounded out the poll at 243.

Voter turnout in Stanhope was "excellent", with approximately 75 percent more voters turning up at the polls to vote in Fred Gardner as reeve. With 433 votes, he beat out Ann Barker, who is presently deputy-reeve and who garnered 344 votes.

In other Stanhope races, incumbent councillor Murray Daniels topped the polls with 496 votes, followed by newcomers Barb Nangle, 448, Jim Hicks, 427, Bob Pollard, 354, and Ed Turner at 263.

Incumbent councillors topped the polls in Lutterworth, where it was a five-way race for three councillor positions. Back on council are Maurice Boyd (336), Bill Valentine (292) and Lisa Mercer (226.) Losing their first-time bids were Paul Pilon Jr. (203) and William Moss (136).

The race was very close in Mon-

mouth's race for deputy-reeve. Incumbent Harry Clark garnered 260 votes, compared to Jim Deterling's 248.

With approximately 25 percent of Monmouth's electorate voting (compared to a 10 percent turnout in previous elections), Dwight Tighe is back as councillor, topping the polls at 339, followed by newcomers Ruth Strong (293), Wren Hughes (229). Losing their bids are Michael Oram (199), Fred Meharrie (149), and Harry Dale (104).

Along with Monmouth, cottage turnout was not strong in Sherborne et al., with its usual 10 percent voter turnout. Getting on as the three councillors are Robert Canning (223), incumbent Joyce McKey (176), and by only one vote, Lyle Aubin with 167 votes. There may be a re-count as newcomer Beverly Griffith garnered 166 votes, David Bradbury came in with 67 votes.

Cardiff will almost have a completely new council, with incumbents not doing well in the polls. Former municipal employee Tom Elliott was the clear winner as reeve with 589 votes, compared to Garth Clark's 186. Dan Rivett is in as deputy with 469 votes, compared to Ron Mumford's 306.

On council, newcomer Helen McIntyre proved popular, garnering 359 votes. Incumbent Mac Peters returns with 304 votes, and Bill Davis is in with 297. Incumbent councillors Oscar White (150) and Keith Murphy (181) were not re-elected.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1991



What role will the Legion play in the future?

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Every blustery November 11, the trim rows of men in blue uniforms march solemnly down main streets across the country. But in recent years, the lines have grown smaller, the hair has grown grayer, and the step is not as sure as it once was.

An 18-year-old boy who signed up in the army, navy or air force in September, 1939 is now 70 years old. Many of the men they went to battle with were older than that; others signed up in later years. Now we are in the midst of the 50th anniversaries of the events which transformed their lives — and history.

With the number of veterans dwindling at an estimated 25,000 a year, what will be the role of the Royal Canadian Legion a decade from now? There are no World War I vets left in Haliburton; what happens when the World War II vets are gone too?

"Unfortunately, the Legion's not dying but it is losing its purity as a veterans club. But we don't want to have a war to get recruits — that's the last thing these veterans would want," says Dave

McAdam, president of Minden Branch 636.

"As time goes on," says the Haliburton Legion's president, Ed Pickard, "I'm not sure where we're heading. How do we attract new members and keep it associated with the military?"

After World War I, many veterans associations sprung up, but by their number, they were almost counter-productive in their aim to get federal benefits for their members. The Great War Veterans' Association gained ascendancy, and in 1925, oversaw the amalgamation of many of the smaller groups into the Royal Canadian Legion.

There are still 600,000 veterans left in Canada, says Greg Hogan, the secretary of the Dominion Command Poppy Committee in Ottawa. Recent legislation opening up benefits to those who served in the Gulf War and in Canada's peacekeeping missions, adds another 100,000.

As the veterans get older, they need the Legion more, and Hogan says Canada's benefit package is one of the best in the world.

"For the foreseeable future, the Legion will carry on much as it

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Memories of fallen comrades . . .

REMEMBERING: Local veterans and Legion members marched in a solemn procession to the cenotaph in Pipe Band, and included the Cadet Corps as well as the Haliburton on Monday for a Remembrance Day colour party. For the first time in years, it didn't snow.

Junior high works with good teachers: Saunders

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The key to a successful junior high school is choosing the right teachers and administrators, says the county's director of education.

"If you have a principal who has talent, if you have good teachers who are highly motivated and provide good leadership, you'll have a good school," Brad Saunders said in an interview with *The Echo*. "If you have bad teachers, it doesn't matter how you're organized, it's going to be a bad school. What really matters is do you have teachers committed to working with kids of that age group. You have to put square pegs in square holes."

Everyone has a legitimate opinion about the correctness of a school for Grades 7, 8 and 9 students, he says. "There is no right answer or correct one."

But a junior high school would not simply be a free-standing replica of how those grades are being taught now. A new, comprehensive study of educating young adolescents in what are known as "the transition years" is *Rites of Passage*, which Saunders cites.

At present, the majority of

schools have Grades 7, 8 and 9 on a rotary system, with students going from class to class for electives such as music and physical education. The old theory was this would help them make the adjustment from elementary school, where one teacher taught all subjects, to high school, where different subjects are taught by different teachers.

"Current research is we couldn't be doing it in a worse fashion," says Saunders. At that age group, when so many other things are changing in their lives, students "need consistency and few adult figures so they're not bouncing from person to person. That's one of the reasons why the Ministry of Education is thinking about de-streaming."

Saunders, who arrived in August, suggested the junior high school, not only as a solution to the accommodation crisis, but also as the best means of meeting the students' needs.

"We can do a better job and we owe it to them to do it," says Saunders, who's convinced the county has the necessary number of committed and talented teachers to make it work. "The longer I'm at it, the more I find very caring people looking for better ways to

meet the needs of the kids.

"Sometimes we make bad choices (but) we're learning more and more about how kids learn and how the brain works. All we can do is respect the new information and try to do a better job."

Saunders says trustees asked the administration for input when it seemed the accommodation debate would never end.

"Now that we have approval for funding, the concern was that this board was coming to the end of its term and it was felt a decision should be made by this board, or else you'd essentially be starting this whole dialogue all over again."

It was Saunders' suggestion to amalgamate the board's Minden and Haliburton accommodation committees since this was a county issue, not a village issue. At the first meeting, "there was a fair bit of frustration with having dialogue and consulted to death, with no clarity emerging from it."

With all the concern about Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden becoming too big if the proposed 11-room addition was built, the subject was reviewed. "But the frustration still existed

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THE LAST POST: Piper Earl Cooper listens pensively as Damon Smith plays the Last Post at Haliburton's Remembrance Day service on Monday.

inside
the
echo

A
suggestion
Give people more
information
on junior high
editorial
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FOCA
in the fall
Meeting tackles
MVA and environment

this week
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Sunship
Earth
A heavenly program
for learning about
the earth

feature
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Teen
suicide
Why some adolescents
think it's a solution

feature
See page 17

Legacy.

From humble beginnings in 1953, we have grown to become a recognized insurance brokerage in the Highlands. When my grandfather, Floyd Hall, started the brokerage

he focused on building relationships. That remains our objective to this day. Our clients typically know us by name, call us directly or personally visit our office to discuss their needs. We thank them for the trust they place in us. For those who don't know us, we welcome your inquiry.

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SOLD IN 5 DAYS

Eagle Lake
Very well maintained 3-bdrm, 2 bath home/cottage. Large dock and sitting deck. Nice clean shoreline. Detached garage with heated attached studio. Outstanding great rm with attractive stone fireplace and floor to ceiling windows. Walk-out lower level. Close to Sir Sam's Ski and Bike, Eagle Lake Market, public beach and boat launch. Excellent sense of privacy with a beautiful elevated view of the lake.
\$799,900

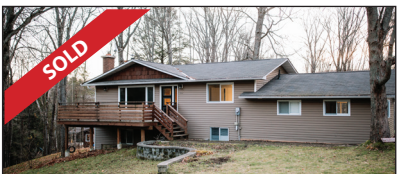
HALIBURTON LAKE \$735,000



NEW LISTING

It's the perfect retreat! Traditional 2-bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Large lakefront deck. Stone, wood burning fireplace. Single dry boathouse with wraparound deck. 1 bunkie providing enough space for the whole family. This complete package sleeps 10 people comfortably. This property checks off all the boxes.

RIVERSIDE DRIVE \$499,000



SOLD

A great family home, in a wonderful neighbourhood. This home is clean, tastefully decorated and features 3+1 bdrm's, 3 baths. Beautiful stone fireplace with wood stove insert, updated kitchen and appliances, and breakfast nook. Fantastic large yard for kids to play. Convenience of in town living, but your surroundings feel much more private and allow you to enjoy nature. New septic being installed.

MARCUS BEACH \$75,000



SOLD

Fully furnished 3 bdrm, 2 bath fractional ownership offers the experience of stress free "lake life" 5 weeks/yr. Bright, open concept living. Maintenance fee includes the maintenance of the grounds & cottage, taxes, cottage cleaning, electricity and so much more. Included on the property for your use; playground, volleyball, tennis court, fire pits, trails and gear for water activities. 2021 weeks and additional information available.

WILLIAMS LANDING \$59,900



Fractional ownership is stress free! Own this fully furnished 3-bdrm, 2 bath cottage with 9 others. Bright open concept living, pine flooring and propane fireplace. Williams Landing offers 4 shared docks, sand beaches, stunning hiking trails and more. Annual maintenance fee includes everything from cottage and yard maintenance, electricity, cottage cleaning, internet, phone and more. Enjoy Kashagawigamog Lake 5 weeks of the year.

COMMERCIAL - THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL \$1,950,000



One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living quarters with 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel.

VACANT LOTS



SOLD IN 5 DAYS

SOLD

NEW LISTING

Kennisis River
\$429,000 30+AC

West Lake
\$339,900 1AC

Harburn Road
\$179,000 53AC

30th Line
\$69,900 4.99AC

Salerno Lake Road
\$53,900 1.05AC